

**First National Bird
Count** *pg 3*

**SETAR N.V. launches
Navigator GPS-Units** *pg 3*

**December is AIDS
awareness month**



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Friday, December 24, 2010

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Imelda Hof Children Enjoyed the Christmas Chogogo Party Bus



See story on page 3

Aruba Governor Fredis Refunjol to give speech tonight

Will be broadcasted on all three TV stations

ORANJESTAD – Tonight Aruba Governor Fredis Refunjol will give a Christmas Eve speech. The speech can be viewed at ATV channel 15 at 7:00 p.m.; at Channel 22 right after the news session around 8:30 p.m. and at TeleAruba at 9:10 p.m.

The Cabinet of the Governor invites everyone to watch this broadcasting.

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

| | |
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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Employees receives service years recognition at RBTT Bank

Six employees receive recognition for their 12 and 35 years faithful service at Aruba's RBTT Bank. They are: Jayanne Mathilde, Christoffer-Halley and Juan "David" Meijer for twelve and a half years of service. And, Elvia Boezem, Silvia Krosendijk-Koolman and Coby Gamarra for 35 years of faithful service to RBTT Bank.

Jayanne began in 1998 as a Teller and still functions today in that capacity.

Chris also began in 1998, as a Teller and since 2003 is serving as Customer Service Representative-Sales.

David began with the bank in 1998 as a Credit Administrative Trainee to assume the position of Credit Analyst. In 2004 he was appointed Account Officer Commercial Banking and since 2006 is functioning as Account Executive Corporate Banking.

Elvis began in 1975 as a Clerk, Journalist and in 1993



became Head Cashier. Later in 1998 Elvia became Senior Service Representative-Cash.

Silvia joined the bank in 1975 as a Clerk; she went on to occupy several functions, including Administrative Assistant Insurances, Administrative Assistant Client Center, Head Fiat, Desk Supervisor, Department Manager Customer Desk,

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said the attacks represented "a serious threat" against foreign embassies, while Chile's ambassador Oscar Godoy Arcaya condemned "an absolutely irrational and brutal act of terrorism."

Police said checks were under way in all the embassies in the Italian capital and the city's mayor said emergency services were on the ready.

Department Manager GTS Operations, Manager Treasury Trade and Securities B/O and since 2009 Silvia serves as Manager Customer Support.

Finally, Coby Gamarra who also joined the bank in 1975 as an Errand Messenger.

In 1979 he became Store-room Manager. In 1983 Coby became Incasseerder, Assistant

Visual Controller, Automation and Cashier. In 1996 he served as Assistant to Bills and in 2000 Assistant to GTS Operations and later Retail Operations Assistant. In 2004 Coby became Transfer Assistant. In 2006 Trade Assistant and since

this year he is Trade Officer.

The photos show the group with bank officials and their respective department managers receiving their due recognition for their faithful service and loyalty to RBTT Bank. Congrats to all.

Bomb blasts hit Swiss, Chilean embassies in Rome

ROME, Italy (AFP) – Bomb blasts in the Chilean and Swiss embassies in Rome injured two staffers yesterday in attacks that officials said may have been carried out by anarchists like the ones behind a similar plot in Greece.

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said the attacks represented "a serious threat" against foreign embassies, while Chile's ambassador Oscar Godoy Arcaya condemned "an absolutely irrational and brutal act of terrorism."

Police said checks were under way in all the embassies in the Italian capital and the city's mayor said emergency services were on the ready.

"This is a wave of terrorism against the embassies. It's more worrying than a single attack," the mayor, Gianni Alemanno, told reporters.

"International lines of inquiry are being followed," Alemanno said.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said investigators were following a possible anarchist link behind the attacks "following analogous incidents that happened in November in Greece."

"These are very violent groups present also in Spain and Greece with close links between them," Maroni said.

Prosecutors opened an inquiry for an attack with "terrorist" intent.

45 people lynched amid Haiti cholera fears

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) – Angry Haitian mobs have lynched at least 45 people in recent weeks, accusing them of spreading a cholera outbreak that has killed over 2,500 people across the country, officials said Wednesday.

The number included at least 14 suspected sorcerers previously known to have been lynched in the far southwestern

region of Grand'Anse as local people feared they were spreading cholera with a magical substance. The area has been largely spared by the outbreak.

"We have counted 40 people dead in Grand'Anse department alone, where people are attacking natural healers they accuse of cholera-linked

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First National Bird Count: 18 March 2011



ORANJESTAD -- For the first time foundation Aruba Birdlife Conservation in cooperation with the Taskforce Boa constrictor is organizing a national bird count in which everybody who lives on Aruba can participate. At first, the birdcount was intended to be held on Christmas day, but a better idea was brought forward. It was suggested to hold the national birdcount on March 18, the day on which Aruba celebrates its National Flag and Anthem.

The birdcount could be added to the agenda of cultural events planned for Aruba's National day and as such henceforth become an annual event. Minister of Cultural Affairs, Minister Michele Hoooyboer-Winklaar, who is responsible for the event planning of

March 18, has informed Aruba Birdlife Conservation that she would gladly support such an important activity being added to the program of Aruba's National Day.

The event will take place early in the morning and will last for 15 minutes. Citizens of Aruba are requested to participate by choosing a certain location, preferably in their gardens or in the vicinity thereof and count the birds they spot within the 15-minute window of opportunity. A special form is being designed for this purpose and the logistics of attaining and returning the forms to the organization is being worked out. The data of the findings will be made public. More information about the national birdcount will be published in January 2011.

The most important reason for the national birdcount is its use as a monitoring device of Aruba's birdlife, which at present is under pressure of the invasive boa constrictor. At present a conservative estimation has revealed that no less than 17.000 birds will be consumed in 2010 by the boa.

An Aruba without shoco, prikichi, patrish and trupial is not an option.

SETAR N.V. launches Navigator GPS-Units with complete map of Aruba

Aruba's national telecommunications company, SETAR N.V., announces it has launched its Navigator GPS unit, consisting of three different Garmin TM yam models: Nuvi 1200, 1310 and 1410. All three GPS models come with a map of Aruba. The map has 858 street names, 34,000 addresses and 572 points of interest.

Users can text with this device and voice-activate for directions to their destination. The Navigator GPS unit comes in three different sizes, 3.5", 4.3" and 5.0"

For who is this service ideal?

SETAR navigator GPS is ideal for vacationers and visit-

ing business people who rent cars, motorcycles and ATV's. It is also useful for emergencies, and police, firefighters and ambulance drivers will find it will save time and lives. It is also useful for postal and delivery services and taxi drivers.

The SETAR Navigator-unit is available at all SETAR Teleshops in San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, Seroe Blanco, Palm Beach, Reina Beatrix International Airport and next to the main post office branch in Oranjestad on Irausquin Plaza.

For more information on the Navigator-Unit visit SETAR's website: www.setar.aw.

Dip closed to the public Dec 27- 31

ORANJESTAD – The Department of infrastructure and Planning, DIP, announces that its offices will be closed to the public from December 27 until December 31, 2010

On January 3, 2011 the of-

fices will be open again.

DIP management team apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and wishes the whole community of Aruba a happy and safe holiday season.

WISHING YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS!

The Airport Branch
will be closed on the
following dates:

Friday, December 24, 2010: Closed at 11:00 AM

Saturday, December 25, 2010: Closed

Sunday, December 26, 2010: Closed

Friday, December 31, 2010: Closed at 11:00 AM

Saturday, January 1, 2011: Closed

**Starting on January 2, 2011:
The Airport Branch will no
longer be open on Sundays.**

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Imelda Hof Children Enjoyed the Christmas Chogogo Party Bus



Last week the children at the Imeldahof Children's Home went on a spectacular tour aboard the Chogogo Party Bus...and traversed the entire island. They were ecstatic while savoring the many 'pasa bocas' and drinking champagne (non-alcoholic).

The tour was a private donation and a fabulous way to

allow others who otherwise could not, to also enjoy something of the Christmas festivities.

The tour began at the Imeldahof Home and took the children to all of the "hot spots" with Christmas lights, such as the Parke Wara Wara and the popular Casita di Luz (house of lights) in Seroe Preto. The

magic moment came when the kids received prizes. The photos show something of the glee and gusto that these kids had on this tour.

Chogogo Party bus and the children of Imeldahof wishes Aruba a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with much happiness and prosperity.

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Traffic tip for Santa: reflective reindeer collars

OSLO, Norway – Norwegian reindeer owners have a Christmas safety tip for Santa -- put reflectors on his fleet-footed animals so they won't get hit by cars.

About 2,000 reindeer have been fitted this month with reflective yellow collars or small antler tags to cut down on the car crashes that now

kill 500 reindeer a year and pose a danger to motorists across Arctic Norway.

"It really works," Kristian Oevernes, the leader of the project at the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, said of the project in Finnmark, where the sun does not rise in mid-winter.

A test drive on a snowmo-

bile showed that marked reindeer were far more visible in the dark than others. Several people are injured every year in car accidents involving reindeer, and one recent accident in Finland was fatal.

"I guess so," Oevernes said, when asked if Santa might take up the safety tip.

"This is the first time it

(reindeer marking) has happened on this scale."

Sami herders had tried small experiments to attach reflective tape to the animals but the glue failed in the cold. Finnish herders had also tried a reflective spray, but it reduced the fur's ability to keep out the chill.

About 200,000 reindeer

live in Norway, mostly owned by Sami indigenous people who raise them for meat, skins and antlers, according to the International Center for Reindeer Husbandry.

If the new project is successful, supporters say, reindeer owners or vehicle insurance companies might be interested in buying reflectors.



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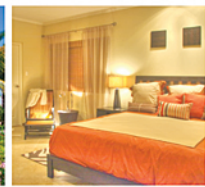
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Revived Obama celebrates year-end wins

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Barack Obama emerged from a crisis-strewn first two White House years Wednesday flexing restored power at home and abroad, brandishing big wins from a supposedly "lame duck" Congress.

Obama won Senate ratification of a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia, which he said sent a "powerful signal" to the world, and fulfilled a Democratic dream by signing a bill allowing gays to serve openly in the military.

With both wins, the president took on and beat fierce obstruction by revived Republicans just six weeks after his foes sent him reeling, with his political credibility in question, after a "shellacking" in mid-term elections.

"One thing I hope people have seen during this lame duck, I am persistent -- if I believe in something strongly, I stay on it," Obama said, in a warning to Republicans who will take over the House of Representatives next month.

Obama spoke after Senators voted 71-26 to ratify a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), clearing the needed two-thirds majority for a pact the president had made a linchpin of efforts to "reset" relations with Moscow.

"This is the most significant arms control agreement in nearly two decades and it will make us safer and reduce our nuclear arsenals, along with Russia," Obama said in a pre-Christmas news conference.

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Sci-Tech

British eight-year-olds publish study in top science journal

LONDON (AFP) - A group of British children aged between eight and 10 had their school project on bees published by the prestigious Royal Society in a world scientific first, the society said Wednesday.

The pupils from Blackawton primary school in the southwestern English county of Devon investigated how bumblebees see colours and patterns using a series of experiments in a local churchyard.

The findings by the 25 children, drawn up with a scientist who lives in the area, have been published in Biol-

ogy Letters, a peer-reviewed journal published by the Royal Society.

"The field of insect colour and pattern vision is generally poorly understood and the findings reported by the school children represent a genuine advance in the field," the Royal Society said in a statement.

The headmaster of the school, Dave Strudwick, said his pupils "devised, conducted and wrote up an experiment which resulted in genuinely novel findings, so they deserve to be published."

The children used patterns

drawn with coloured pencil to see whether the insects would go for sugar water and avoid salt water.

"We discovered that bumblebees can use a combination of colour and spatial relationships in deciding which colour of flower to forage from. We also discovered that science is cool and fun because you get to do stuff that no one has ever done before," they concluded in the paper.

Biology Letters editor Brian Charlesworth said their paper was a "world first in high quality scientific publishing."

Massive antarctic IceCube to help search for dark matter



The final Digital Optical Module (DOM) is prepared to be deployed in the IceCube array, the world's largest neutrino observatory. (AFP photo)

WELLINGTON (AFP) - An extraordinary underground observatory for subatomic particles has been completed in a huge cube of ice one kilometre on each side deep under the South Pole, researchers said.

Building the IceCube, the world's largest neutrino observatory, has taken a grueling decade of work in the Antarctic tundra and will help scientists study space particles in the search for dark matter, invisible material that makes up most of the Universe's mass.

The observatory, located 1,400 metres underground near the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, cost more than 270 million dollars, ac-

cording to the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

The cube is a network of 5,160 optical sensors, each about the size of a basketball, which have been suspended on cables in 86 holes bored into the ice with a specially-designed hot-water drill.

NSF said the final sensor was installed in the cube, which is one kilometre (0.62 miles) long in each direction, on December 18. Once in place they will be forever embedded in the permafrost as the drill holes fill with ice.

The point of the exercise is to study neutrinos, subatomic particles that travel at close to the speed of light but are so small they can pass through solid matter without

colliding with any molecules.

Scientists believe neutrinos were first created during the Big Bang and are still generated by nuclear reactions in suns and when a dying star explodes, creating a supernova.

Trillions of them pass through the entire planet all the time without leaving a trace, but the IceCube seeks to detect the blue light emitted when an occasional neutrino crashes into an atom in the ice.

"Antarctic polar ice has turned out to be an ideal medium for detecting neutrinos," the NSF said in a statement announcing the project's completion.

"It is exceptionally pure, transparent and free of radioactivity."

Scientists have hailed the IceCube as a milestone for international research and say studying neutrinos will help them understand the origins of the Universe.

"From its vantage point at the end of the world, IceCube provides an innovative means to investigate the properties of fundamental particles that originate in some of the most spectacular phenomena in the Universe," NSF said.

Most of the IceCube's funding came from the NSF, with contributions from Germany, Belgium and Sweden.

Researchers from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Britain and Barbados also worked on the project.

It is operated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



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Millions affected as Skype goes down

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Skype suffered an outage lasting several hours on Wednesday affecting millions of users of the Internet communications service.

"Our engineers and site operations team are working non-stop to get things back to normal -- thanks for your continued patience," Luxembourg-based Skype said in a message on its Twitter feed @Skype.

In a blog post, Skype explained that computers known as "supernodes" had

been taken offline by an unspecified problem affecting some versions of Skype.

"Under normal circumstances, there are a large number of supernodes available," Skype said. "Our engineers are creating new 'mega-supernodes' as fast as they can, which should gradually return things to normal."

Skype, which was founded in 2003, bypasses the standard telephone network by channeling voice, video and text conversations over the Internet.



Physiotherapist Teresa Arocena (L) exercises a patient with an innovative medical treatment that uses virtual reality created to re-train people with balance disorders on December 20, 2010 in Montevideo. Uruguayan Medicaa company developed a Balance Rehabilitation Unit --made out of a virtual reality headgear with an inertial unit and dedicated software-- to treat patients with these disorders by means of a therapy called "Motor Coordination Re-training". Medicaa recently signed a distribution contract with Danish company Interacoustics. (AFP PHOTO)

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Health & Living

US approves anal cancer vaccine

WASHINGTON (AFP) — US health authorities have approved a vaccine intended to prevent anal cancer and precancerous lesions in young people aged nine to 26 years old.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave the green light Wednesday to the makers of the vaccine Gardasil, which is already used to treat women with cervical, vulvar, and vaginal cancer, and associated lesions caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18, officials said.

"Treatment for anal cancer is challenging; the use of Gardasil as a method of prevention is important as it may result in fewer diagnoses and the subsequent surgery, radiation or chemotherapy that individuals need to endure," said Karen Midthun, director of the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Although anal cancer is

rare in the general population, its occurrence is increasing especially among gay men, officials noted.

The American Cancer Society estimates about 5,300 people are diagnosed with anal cancer each year in the United States, with more women diagnosed than men.

Spanish lawmakers confirm January 2 smoking ban

MADRID, Spain--(AFP)

Spanish smokers will be able to light up in bars and restaurants for the final time during the holiday period after lawmakers this week approved a ban starting on January 2.

The new law bans smoking in all enclosed public spaces, including bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

It will be illegal to smoke in parks for children, plus on school or hospital grounds, according to the text of the law.

Existing anti-smoking leg-

islation bans smoking in work places and public transport. Health Minister Leire Pajin said implementation of the ban would not happen overnight, and called on Spaniards to share responsibility for its success.

Food poisoning, also referred to as food-borne illness, is a result of eating contaminated food. Infectious organisms — including various bacteria, viruses and parasites — or their toxins are the most common cause of food poisoning.

Infectious organisms can contaminate food at any point during its processing or production. Contamination can also occur at home if food is incorrectly handled, improperly cooked or inadequately stored. Illness is not inevitable after you eat contaminated

food. The effects depend on the contaminant, the degree of contamination, your age and your health.

Symptoms:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Watery diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Stomach cramps
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Fever

Signs and symptoms may start within hours after eating the contaminated food, or they may begin days later. Sickness caused by food poisoning generally lasts from one to 10 days.

When to see a doctor

If you experience any of the following signs or symptoms, seek medical attention.

- Frequent episodes of vomiting for more than two days
- Vomiting blood
- Inability to keep liquids down for 24 hours
- Severe diarrhea for more than three days
- Blood in your bowel movements
- Extreme pain or severe abdominal cramping
- An oral temperature higher than 101.5 F (38.6 C)
- Signs or symptoms of dehydration — excessive thirst,

dry mouth, little or no urination, severe weakness, dizziness or lightheadedness

If you suspect food poison-



ing, contact your local health department. Your report can help the health department identify a potential outbreak and may help prevent other people from getting sick. Besides listing your symptoms, you may need to recall what you ate, where you got the food and when you got sick.

Causes

Contamination of food can happen at any point during its production: growing, harvesting, processing, storing, shipping or preparing. Cross-contamination — the transfer of harmful organisms from one surface to another — is often the cause. This is especially troublesome for raw, ready-to-eat foods, such as salads or other produce. Because these foods aren't cooked, harmful organisms aren't destroyed before eating and can cause food poisoning.

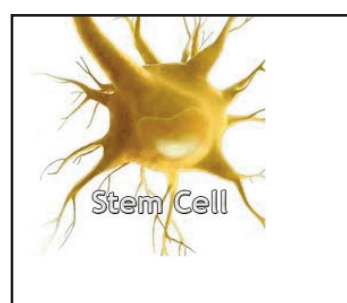
Study: Stem cells point to more resilient cancer

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leukemia patients with more genes associated with cancer stem cells have a "significantly poorer prognosis," according to findings published.

A Stanford University study found that "some cancers spring from and are replenished by a small, hardy population of self-renewing cells," which could explain why they resist treatment or cause patients to relapse.

The findings could be used to predict outcomes in large groups of patients and one day allow doctors to better tailor clinical treatments, researchers said.

"The clinical implications of this concept are huge," said oncologist Ash Alizadeh, a co-



senior author of the research, which will be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"If we're not able to design therapies to target this self-renewing population of chemotherapy-resistant cells, the patients will continue to have a tendency to relapse."

In past studies researchers have identified cells in a variety of cancers that resist treat-

ment and contribute to relapse in animals, but scientists have yet to establish exactly how the process works in humans.

Alizadeh said researchers had "made very little progress in the treatment of AML (acute myeloid leukemia) over the past 40 years."

"We're still using the same drugs and therapies we've always used, even though about 70 percent of patients with AML die within five years of diagnosis," he said.

The study analyzed 1,000 AML patients in the United States, the Netherlands, Germany and Japan, and was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



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Health Minister Leire Pajin said implementation of the ban would not happen overnight, and called on Spaniards to share responsibility for its success.

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ACROSS

1. Boor
4. Ruler
8. Store
12. Function
13. Ill-will
14. Booth
15. Curved letter
16. Columnists' page: hyph.
17. Land measure
18. Find fault
20. Chair
22. Smart
24. Printing fluid
25. Leases
26. Malt brew
27. "Norma ____"
30. Diner sign
31. Wire measure
32. Wife of Zeus
33. Elevated railroads
34. Crony
35. Speeder
36. Salutation
37. Relating to wine
38. Nun
41. No ifs, ____ or buts
42. "Do ____ others ..."

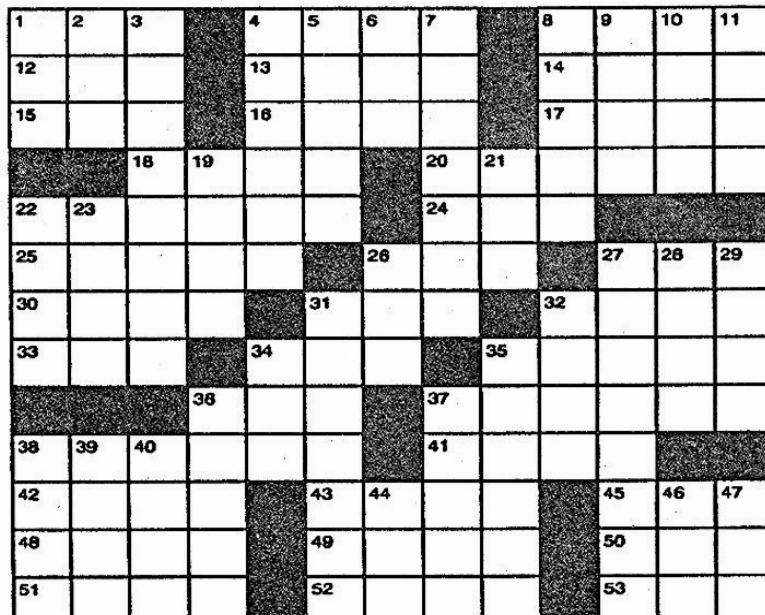
43. Evils

45. Baste
48. Lower the ____
49. Roof edge
50. Age
51. Ginger cookie
52. Slave Scott
53. Arid

DOWN

1. Actor's hint
2. Donkey
3. Sings
4. Spikes
5. Juicy
6. Consumed
7. Bore again
8. Negligent
9. Pawn
10. Monster
11. Gaze
19. River islands
21. Unit
22. Scottish broth
23. Authentic
26. Be unwell
27. Indented
28. Region
29. British title
31. Got hitched
32. Laborer

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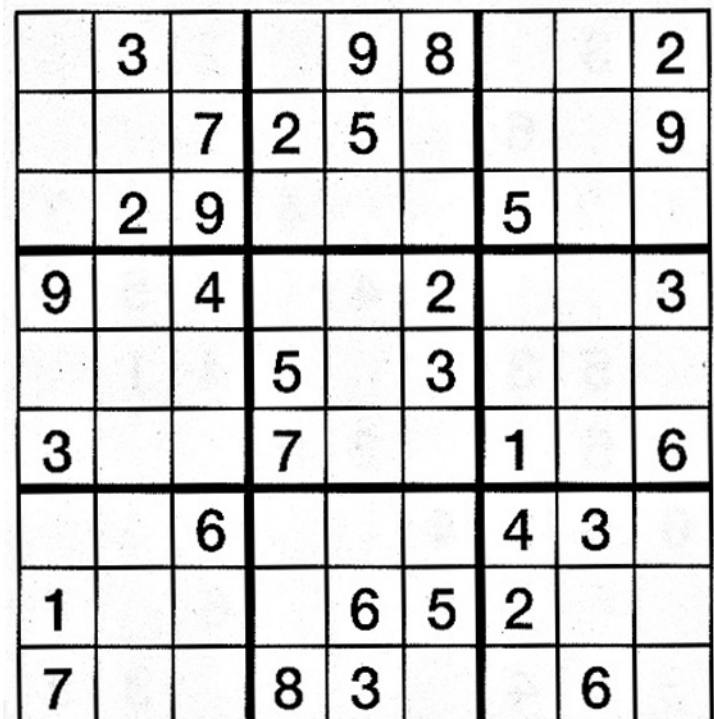
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| | | | | | | | | |
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| 9 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance



Oil rig extracts crude in California. An oil rig extracts crude in California. Oil prices spiked to fresh two-year highs on Wednesday as traders reacted to news of plunging crude reserves in the United States. (AFP PHOTO)



Pedestrians pass before the headquarters of Japanese electronics giant Sony in Tokyo, Japan. Sony is planning to buy back a Japanese factory from Toshiba as it seeks to double output for sensors used in cameras and smartphones amid rising global demand, reports said yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)



Terrace paddy fields are covered in morning mist in Yuanyang, China's southwestern Yunnan province. Recent food price surges in China have underscored the supply challenges the country faces, as decreasing arable land is making it harder to maintain farm output, a UN envoy said yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)

Eurozone mulling independent rescue fund, says report

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – Several European countries, including Germany, are working on a permanent euro rescue mechanism that would include the creation of a new and independent funding institution, a press report said yesterday.

Germany is considering a "European stability, growth and investment fund," according to a government paper seen by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily.

The mooted body would exist side-by-side with the European Central Bank, would benefit from the same independence and would be tasked

with helping financially distressed eurozone countries under strict conditions.

The German finance ministry acknowledged that a plan had been worked on by its staff but said it was not policy.

"The idea expressed in the article is in no way the official position of the finance ministry or federal government," it said in a statement.

At the last European Council summit in Brussels this month, governments agreed to establish the framework for a future permanent eurozone rescue fund by March, to ensure the euro's long-term stability, the statement noted.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung said governments which needed to borrow from the mooted fund would have to put up solid collateral such as gold reserves or private bonds.

The document said such a fund would have an "unlimited capacity for refinancing" and would be proposed to finance ministers in mid-January.

In addition to Germany, Finland, France, Ireland and the Netherlands are working on proposals. German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble is to discuss the plans with his French counterpart Christine Lagarde yesterday in Strasbourg, the report said.

Calling for a run on a bank to be made illegal, say ministers

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- The government is to make it a criminal offence to call for a run on a bank and is preparing draft legislation to put out to consultation in January.

Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten and Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager want to stop

people making public statements calling bank clients to pull out their cash, they said in a memo to parliament.

A run on privately-owned DSB bank in 2009 helped push the bank into bankruptcy. Activist Pieter Lakeman has called on customers to take their money out of the bank on

a tv program.

Within 11 days, customers had withdrawn €600m.

The ministers say the maximum fine for calling for a run on a bank should be four years in jail or a fine of €19,000. Calling for a run can lead to an unmanageable situation, the ministers said.

Football: World Cup investments to boost Qatar

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - The investment in infrastructure that Qatar will have to make after it won the right to host the 2022 football World Cup is likely to boost GDP growth in the gas-rich emirate, economists say.

The tiny nation already has the highest gross domestic product growth rate in the Gulf

region, driven by heavy investment in gas projects aimed at raising production and its capacity to export the commodity.

Much of those funds will now be dedicated to a plethora of projects imperative to holding the football showpiece, especially since the emirate has hit its output target of 77 mil-

lion tons of liquefied natural gas per annum.

"The GDP growth drivers will change," said Philippe Dauba-Pantanacce, senior economist for Middle East and North Africa at Standard Chartered Bank.

Qatar's GDP is forecast to grow by 8.0 percent this year and 5.0 percent in 2011, Standard Chartered reported this month.

Maersk pays 2.4 billion dollars for Brazil oil fields

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AFP) - Danish shipping and oil group A.P. Moeller-Maersk said yesterday it will pay 2.4 billion dollars (1.8 billion euros) for the Brazilian assets of South Korea's SK Energy.

It said the deal gives it access to Brazil's promising offshore fields, seen as one of the world's biggest and most important oil plays for the coming years.

The sale includes the Polvo,

Wahoo and Itaipu fields in which Maersk will hold stakes of 40 percent, 20 percent and 27 percent respectively.

Maersk said the acquisition is a major boost to its long-term reserves and reinforces its position "in one of the most attractive regions for oil exploration and production."

The Polvo field is already in production while Wahoo and Itaipu could come on-stream in 2016 and 2018.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | R | M | T | O | T | D | A | L | E |
| A | R | E | A | A | D | O | E | P | O | S |
| S | A | L | T | S | E | D | I | M | E | N |
| P | R | A | T | E | S | D | R | U | D | G |
| T | E | L | E | L | A | R | | | | |
| S | P | I | R | A | L | E | E | N | E | R |
| O | R | O | | | | | H | I | E | |
| T | E | N | D | E | R | T | A | L | E | N |
| | A | M | I | A | B | E | T | | | |
| T | O | R | R | I | D | R | E | M | O | T |
| H | A | U | N | T | I | N | G | O | R | A |
| O | R | L | E | N | E | E | N | I | P | A |
| U | S | E | R | G | O | T | S | C | A | N |



UN: Ivorian forces prevent 'mass grave' investigation

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AFP) - The UN peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast this week accused government security forces of systematically preventing the investigation of reports that mass graves have been found in Abidjan.

Simon Munzu, head of the human rights department of the UNOCI mission, said UN investigators had received allegations about two possible grave sites in the city but had been prevented from ap-

proaching the scene.

"We get to a roadblock, manned by heavily armed elements of the Defence and Security Forces, to whom are associated hooded people who we don't know," he told reporters at UNOCI's headquarters in Abidjan.

The Defence and Security Forces (FDS) are police and army regulars loyal to strongman Laurent Gbagbo. They have been deployed to prevent protests by his internationally

recognised presidential rival Alassane Ouattara.

Munzu said the FDS roadblocks were set up behind a screen of civilian protesters, apparently to stop UN vehicles forcing their way through.

"And to this is added civilians, including children, who would tomorrow be classified as 'collateral damage' if we tried to force our way," he said.

"We'd prefer not to cause such 'collateral damage' as it is

cynically described by some. So we prefer to turn around, hoping that calmer minds and reason will prevail and we will be allowed to do our work," he said.

Munzu said UNOCI chief Choi Young-jin had personally tried to inspect an alleged mass grave site in the N'Dotre district of the city, but had been forced back by FDS troops and masked militia.

Ouattara supporters claim there were between 60 and 80

bodies in the alleged N'Dotre site and 30 more at another site. Munzu said he could neither confirm nor deny these reports because his teams had been blocked.

But he said that for seven days the citizens of poor districts of Abidjan have been subject to "harassment, intimidation, extra-judicial killing, arrest and detention" and that UN monitors had confirmed 173 deaths.

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JAL; Bamboo wheelchairs to ease security checks

TOKYO (AFP) – Japan Airlines (JAL) has come up with a novel way to help wheelchair users avoid setting off metal detectors at airport security gates -- by offering them bamboo wheelchairs instead.

"Passengers using steel wheelchairs have had to put up with a full body check every time they fly because the metal frame of a wheelchair sets off the security alarm," JAL said in a statement.

"But with the bamboo-made wheelchair, physically challenged flyers can now go to the gate swiftly as they remain seated while they go

through security."

JAL will start offering the new wheelchair model, which it likens to "a piece of sophisticated furniture," next year -- first at Japan's Oita airport on Kyushu island and then at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

The bamboo model, completely hand-made and with rubber wheels, costs about 600,000 yen (about 7,200 dollars) each and is made at a pace of one a month by a specialised workshop, a JAL official said.

"We would like to increase the number of the vehicles while listening to the voices of users," said the official.



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Chagall exhibit opens in Rome landmark



Le Songe
By Marc Chagall



Loneliness
By Marc Chagall

ROME, Italy (AFP) – An exhibition of paintings by Marc Chagall (1887-1985) entitled "The World Upside-Down" opened to the public on Wednesday next to an ancient Roman altar in the centre of the Italian capital.

The exhibition inside the Ara Pacis complex brings together around 140 paintings from Nice and Paris, as well as private collections.

The display has been organised by the Marc Chagall National Museum in Nice.

Chagall, who was born in Vitebsk in what was then the Russian Empire and is now Belarus, has become famous for his gravity-defying paintings that feature flying farm animals, Jewish folk musicians and wedding



Marc Chagall - Portrait - Acrylic
by Giselle

scenes.

Chagall took French nationality in 1937 and became one of the most famous painters of the 20th century in France, along with Pablo Picasso.

The exhibition in Rome runs until March 27.

Beatles 'Abbey Road' crossing given heritage status

LONDON, England (AFP) – A legendary London zebra crossing featured on the cover of The Beatles' album "Abbey Road" has been designated a heritage site, the British government said this week.

Heritage minister John Penrose said the decision to list the black-and-white crossing in north London was a "fantastic testimony to the international fame of the Beatles".

Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr are seen walking across the road in the picture on the sleeve of their 1969 album.

The crossing is outside the Abbey Road studios where it was recorded.

McCartney welcomed the news, which comes in a big year for the band after their songs went on sale on Apple's iTunes for the first time.

"It's been a great year for me and a great year for the Beatles and hearing that the



Abbey Road crossing is to be preserved is the icing on the cake," McCartney said.

It is the first time that Britain has given so-called Grade II status to a site that is not a building.

"It is a fantastic testimony to the international fame of the Beatles that, more than 40 years on, this crossing continues to attract thousands of visitors each year, trying to mimic their iconic Abbey Road album cover," Penrose said.

"Abbey Road" was the best-selling Beatles album on iTunes in the United States

since the band's debut on the site in November.

This month marks 30 years since Lennon was gunned down in Manhattan in December 1980.



I am number one not del Bosque, says Mourinho



ROME (AFP) - Jose Mourinho said on Thursday he deserved to be named coach of the year and not Spain's World Cup winning coach Vicente del Bosque.

The ever immodest 47-year-old Real Madrid coach told the 'Gazzetta dello sport' that he firmly believed he had achieved more in 2010 when he was in charge of Inter Milan than the Spanish handler, who delivered Spain their first world title when they beat the Netherlands 1-0 in July's final.

"Me, I've made my choice. 11 months work, 57 matches played, three titles including the most important of all, 'THE' tournament, the Champions League (plus the Italian Cup and the Italian league title)," said Mourinho, who left Inter for Real in the summer.

"I have won everything, I could not do any more than that, equally so for the players."

Mourinho, whose successor as coach of Inter Rafael Benitez was sacked on Thursday, also defended his Dutch playmaker at Inter Wesley Sneijder, who was not even nominated for the Ballon d'Or, an award which according to Gazzetta will go to Barcelona's Spanish playmaker Andres Iniesta.

Sneijder to many people's amazement including that of UEFA president Michel Platini was not even on the shortlist despite his inspirational play for Inter last term and then outstanding per-

formances for the Dutch at the World Cup.

"If the winner is Iniesta, who unhappily was not able to play for the first five months of the year because of injury, but after that played six matches and scored a goal in South Africa (the winner in the World Cup final), then anything can happen in the year of a World Cup final and the rest counts for nothing," said Mourinho, whose only serious reverse this year was the 5-0 hammering by Barcelona in their first 'clasico' meeting of the season at the end of November.

"I can understand if there was a debate if the trophies were shared, but when one has won everything!"

"What can one say? I would prefer to win the match on Sunday than the Ballon d'Or," he added.

The Ballon d'Or will be announced in Zurich on January 10.

FIFA fears impact of marketing agent's collapse

ZURICH (AFP) - World football's governing body FIFA said on Thursday that it feared the financial impact of the collapse of its main product licensing agent, Singapore-based Global Brands Group (GBG).

"FIFA is very concerned about the situation as it has financial consequences not only for FIFA, but also for employees and other third parties as well as seriously damages the reputation of the FIFA Brand," it said in a

statement e-mailed to AFP.

"FIFA is sad to hear about the bankruptcy of GBG and would like to extend its sympathy to the GBG employees who are affected by this situation," FIFA added, confirming a report in the Swiss weekly Handelszeitung.

Football's governing body appointed GBG as its exclusive worldwide licensing representative five years ago under a contract stretching from 2007 to 2014, also allowing it to operate its stores.

The deal covered licensing for branded products for the 2010 and 2014 World Cups in South Africa and Brazil, FIFA confirmed, such as sports and fashion goods.

It gave no figures on revenues or potential losses, but Handelszeitung reported that FIFA earned about 53 million Swiss francs (32 million euros, 43 million dollars) from merchandise licensing

for the World Cup in Germany in 2006.

Nine years ago FIFA plunged into financial trouble after World Cup TV rights marketing partner ISMM/ISL collapsed in controversial circumstances, also sparking

legal fallout and internal wrangling amid claims of illicit payments.

FIFA said it was still assessing GBG's bankruptcy and trying to contact companies that had licensing contracts with the Singapore company.



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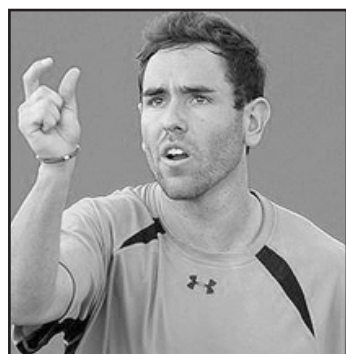
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Drug cheat US tennis player has year cut from ban



LONDON (AFP) – Disgraced American tennis player Wayne Odesnik had on Wednesday a year slashed from a two year ban for doping offences after co-operating fully with the International Tennis Federation's anti-doping programme.

The 25-year-old South African-born player - who reached a world best ranking of 77 last April - was arrested on January 2 in Brisbane, Australia, in possession of eight phials of human growth

hormone and subsequently pleaded guilty in an Australian court on March 26 to importing it into Australia.

He has denied taking the banned performance enhancer.

Odesnik's ban had already been backdated to December 29, 2009, leaving him free to resume his playing career next week.

Brown steps down as coach of Bobcats



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) – Larry Brown resigned as coach of the NBA Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday with the club mired in a 9-19 start to the season after losing six of its past seven games.

Michael Jordan, the Bobcats chairman and chief executive as well as a six-time NBA champion playing for Chicago, announced that the 70-year-old coach was stepping down after a conversation following the team's Wednesday workout.

"I met with coach Brown two weeks ago about the team's performance and what we could do to improve it," Jordan said.

"We met again this morning after practice. The team has clearly not lived up to either of our expectations and we both agreed that a change was necessary."

The Bobcats had been blown out by more than 30 points in three different losses over the past 12 days, a staggering showing that was too much for Jordan to

NEW YORK (AFP) – Three-time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady passed once-reviled dog slayer Michael Vick for the top spot in final fan voting totals for the NFL Pro Bowl announced Wednesday by the league.

Vick, who was imprisoned for his role in a dogfight gambling conspiracy, had drawn

howls of protest for animal lovers after details emerged of how he put down poorly performing dogs in brutal methods.

But after completing his prison sentence, Vick was signed last year by the Philadelphia Eagles and this year has returned to form as a run and pass threat that made him an NFL superstar before the scandal broke.

Vick had been leading the fan vote, a major sign of support from American football followers, and his final total of 1,522,437 votes was sec-

ond-best overall, trailing only New England hero Brady's total of 1,877,079 votes.

A record 98.52 million votes were cast online and through text messages by fans, whose votes count for one-third in the selection process. Players and coaches, whose votes each count one-third, make their picks by Thursday.

The American and National Conference rosters of 43 players will be revealed next Tuesday for the January 30 all-star gridiron contest at Honolulu.

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Two Chicken breasts stuffed with spinach and wrapped with bacon, served with creamy rosemary sauce, mashed potatoes, and mixed greens.

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Devils sack MacLean, bring back Lemaire as coach

NEWARK, New Jersey (AFP) – The New Jersey Devils sacked rookie coach John MacLean on Thursday and brought back Jacques Lemaire to guide the NHL team.

The Devils, who have not missed the Stanley Cup playoffs since 1997, have been a disappointment this season and are tied with the New York Islanders for the fewest points in the league with 20 in 33 games. Their 59 goals are also the fewest.

Lemaire was expected to

coach the team Thursday night against the Islanders.

Lamoriello made the move two days after the Devils fell 5-1 to Washington for their third straight defeat and eight in nine games so far in December.

"I take responsibility for waiting and trying to get it to where it should have been," Lamoriello said. "Under no set of circumstances should all of this responsibility be placed on (MacLean)."

New Jersey were expected to be among the Eastern Con-

ference leaders again this season after re-signing All-Star forward Ilya Kovalchuk to a controversial 15-year, 100 million-dollar contract in the offseason.

The Devils have also been hit by injuries to high-scoring left wing Zach Parise, goaltender Martin Brodeur (elbow) and others in the supporting cast. Brodeur has returned after recovering from an elbow injury, but Parise's knee injury is expected to keep him out until February.

CC happy for Lee, believes Yanks can still win

NEW YORK -- CC Sabathia has resumed his winter workouts and promises to be a little more slender when he reports to Spring Training. But even he is curious who'll be alongside him in the Yankees' rotation.

The left-hander said that he was happy for Cliff Lee, even though his close friend spurned the Yankees' offer to accept a five-year, \$120 million deal with the Phillies.

And while Sabathia is confident in both A.J. Burnett and Phil Hughes behind him, the Yankees could be heading

into 2011 with the back end of the rotation rounded out by rookie Ivan Nova and a cloudy cast of candidates.

"I mean, it's definitely young," Sabathia said in a telephone interview. "Me and A.J. are at the top, and Phil definitely proved himself to me last year, and to everybody else. We'd have Nova and we're really searching after that, I'd think."

"We'll just have to wait and see. The Yankees are a team that always makes moves, so we'll have to wait and see what happens."

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